cants in Protestant churches, most of them in the coast provinces> and in 1889 missionaries numbered nearly thirteen hundred, not quite half of them men, representing forty-one different societies. These figures were an increase from about fifty-seven hundred communicants in 1869 and from about one hundred and eighty-nine missionaries in 1864.

In addition to spreading a knowledge of the Christian Gospel by the printed and the oral word, Protestant missions were chiefly responsible for introducing Western medicine to China. They also had a large part in inaugurating* education of an Occidental type, and in preparing and circulating literature which familiarized Chinese with Western ideas.

With merchants and diplomats, and often in advance of them, missionaries were pioneers of the infiltration of China with Western ideas. Although some of them were unpleasantly aggressive, and a few of them bigoted and intolerant, they had sincerely at heart what they believed to be the best interests of the Chinese, usually worked with a high and selfless devotion, and helped to put the Chinese in touch with the spiritual, moral, and intellectual forces of the Occident much more than did merchants or diplomats. Many thousands of Chinese were profoundly improved morally and spiritually by the contact.

When all is said for the missionary that can be said—and it is much more than is usually realized—it must also be acknowledged that, especially during the three and a half decades after 1860, he was often the source of great annoyance to the Chinese populace and to officialdom. His teaching, intolerant of the customary honors to ancestors, seemed to threaten the Chinese family. Religious practices which formed an integral part of guild, com-

munity, and political life were anathema to him. Christians, therefore, seemed to their neighbors recreant to moral, social, economic, and political obligations and to be attacking the foundations of society and civilization. Few, if any, foresaw that these were to crumble, anyway, within the next few decades and that the missionary would prove of great help in the work of replacing them. Moreover, the missionaries' activities were often misunderstood and the most absurd rumors about them were circulated and widely believed—for example, that in Christian orphanages and hospitals the eyes and other organs of children were extracted for